

B. Claims

Please amend claim 24 as follows. The following is a complete listing of the claims and replaces all earlier listings of the claims.

1. - 23. (Cancelled)

24. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of a solid, oral, rapidly disintegrating dosage form of a pharmaceutically active substance which has an unacceptable taste, which process comprises the steps of:

(a) rendering the pharmaceutically active substance less soluble;

(b) forming a system selected from the group consisting of a solution and a suspension in water or an alcoholic solvent of the pharmaceutically active substance in the presence of a carrier material selected from the group consisting of water-soluble and water-dispersible carrier materials;

~~(b)~~ (c) forming discrete units of the system; and

~~(c)~~ (d) removing the solvent from the discrete units under conditions whereby a network of the carrier material carrying a dosage of the less soluble and more palatable form of the pharmaceutically active substance is formed,

wherein step (a) may be performed prior to step (b) or step (a) and step (b) may be performed simultaneously.

25. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 24, wherein step (a) is performed prior to step (b).

26. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 24, wherein the carrier material is gelatin.

27. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 24, wherein the discrete units are selected from the group consisting of liquid, frozen and gelled units.

28. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 27, wherein the discrete units are formed in a mold comprising a plurality of pockets.

29. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 27, wherein the discrete units are liquid units which are frozen prior to removal of the solvent.

30. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 27, wherein the discrete units are frozen units and the solvent is removed by freeze drying.

31. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 27, wherein said units are frozen liquid units and said solvent is removed by vacuum drying under conditions whereby the solvent is evaporated from said frozen units through the liquid phase to a gas.

32. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 27, wherein the discrete units are gelled units from which the solvent is removed under conditions selected from the group consisting of decreased pressure and forced air drying.

33. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 28, wherein the mold comprises at least one depression in a sheet of a filmic material.

34. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 33, wherein a sheet of a covering material is adhered to a filmic material in the area around at least one said depression after the removal of solvent from said system.

35. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 24, wherein the pharmaceutically active substance is loperamide hydrochloride which is converted into the form of the loperamide free base during the preparation of the system.

36. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 24, wherein the less soluble pharmaceutically active substance is domperidone free base.

37. (Previously Presented) A solid, oral, rapidly disintegrating dosage form of a pharmaceutically active substance prepared by a process according to claim 24.

38. (Previously Presented) A solid, oral, rapidly disintegrating dosage form according to claim 37, wherein the pharmaceutically active agent is loperamide which is present in the composition in the form of the loperamide free base.

39. (Cancelled)